minerals and rocks including limestone, low-silica dolomite, potash, rock phosphate, plastic clays etc. in various parts of the country. Many of the exploration programmes are still countinuing.

In the course of mineral exploration, GSI have established additional coal reserves of 2631 million tonnes in different coalfields of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal. Besides 60 million tonnes of Lignite has been estimated in Tamilnadu. Reserves of 13.63 million tonnes of Lead-Zinc ore in Udaipur and Ajmer districts of Rajasthan and Betul district of M.P.; 4.34 million tonnes of Copper ore in Udaipur and Jaipur districts of Rajasthan; 19.77 million tonnes of Tin ore in Bhawani district of Haryana and 2.17 million tonnes of gold ore in Hutti Muski and Chitradurga Schist Belts of Karnataka have also been established.

The Mineral Exploration Corpn. Ltd. (MECL) carried out detailed exploration for coal in various blocks of Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Assam and for lignite in Barmer district of Rajasthan and Neyveli and Mannargudi of Tamil nadu. Exploration for Copper was carried out in Khetri Mine area of Rajasthan; for Lead and Zinc in Dhukonda area of Andhra Pradesh and Ghugra area of Rajasthan; for gold in Ramagiri area of Andhra Pradesh and Gadag, Mc-Taggart, Sangli and Uti area of Karnataka; for Tin in Tosham of Haryana; for Atomic Minerals in Kasha of Himachal Pradesh, Cuddapah of Andhra Pradesh, Anantwadi of Karnataka, Sunder Nagar, Dalma Kocha, Galudih and Rajgaon of Bihar and Umrangam of Meghalaya; for Limestone in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan and for diamond in Hatupur of Panna district of Madhya Pradesh. As a result of exploration carried out by MECL, 870 million tonnes of various ore reserves were either established or upgraded.

Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) are carrying out exploration for establishment of ore reserve potential of the Malanjkh and copper deposit in Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh and in the Dhobani deposit near Mosabani in Singhbhum district of Bihar.

Exploration of Mica at Salem

2631. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATARAMAN:
SHRI MISA R. GANESAN:
SHRI J. S. RAJU:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are exploring Mica at Salem;

(b) if so, what is the progress made so far; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Since development of Mica is not in priority sector, exploration of Mica deposits is not taken up by Geological Survey of India (GSI) or any other Government agency and is usually left to private entrepreneurs.

Iron ore powder lying in Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh

$$2632. SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of tons of iron-ore powder is

$$ Previously unstarred question 1274, transferred from the 5th March, 1992.